

Resources and Waste Strategy

IEMA Fellows Working Group Input to DEFRA

Nigel Marsh, Independent Environmental Consultant

IEMA Fellows Circular Economy Working Group paper

- The Resources & Waste strategy is a significant opportunity for the UK to become a world leader in resource productivity and efficiency
- 8 key recommendations

Headline Points

1. **IEMA fully supports** the development of a resources and waste strategy and the long-term target of eliminating waste
2. **Maximising resource utilisation and resource effectiveness should lie at the heart of the strategy** – ensuring that we extract maximum value over precious resources and enhance overall economic productivity
3. **It is essential that the strategy should contain plans for a centralised coordination body on resource security**, one that will ensure more cohesive policies across government departments and swift responses in the face of constraints on short term resource supply
4. **Fiscal instruments** have the potential to reflect and transfer the true environmental costs of materials to their users and provide the basis for realising their full value

Headline Points (2)

5. The strategy should establish **sector-based approaches** with environment practitioners and industry stakeholders to explore alternative fiscal measures than those that simply further drive up recycling rates
6. A **data valuation methodology** is essential to ensure that resource management in organisations is optimised - Clear milestones for achieving it will help make the strategy more resilient to post-Brexit scenarios
7. **A strong focus on skills to support technical knowledge and systems thinking** are key for ensuring a resource effective economy – the Strategy should integrate plans for an institution that provides the necessary learning resources and tool kits
8. The UN Sustainable Development Goals offer UK organisations the opportunity to shift the way they operate and support a transition to a resource efficient economy – **any regulatory proposal contained in the Strategy should be mapped against the SDGs**

The need to take action

- Resource demand is increasing
- Future proofing - We are competing for resources, increasingly with each other, eg the rise in demand for Cobalt for batteries
- Public – increasing awareness, recognition and expectation
- The constant rise in the volume and cost of backdoor waste and end of life products (PDR)



The business case

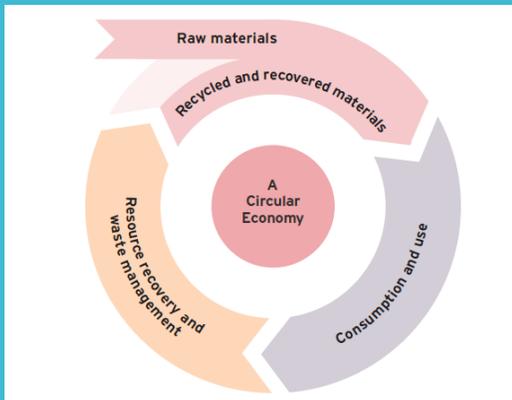
- Waste reduction and elimination isn't rocket science but it does mean getting buy in from many stakeholders, often with conflicting drivers, in order to maximise opportunities
- There is an overwhelming economic case to take action
- The true cost of waste (typically 2-3% of turnover)



What needs to be done

- Change perceptions - **See 'waste' as a resource!**
- Waste mapping
- Principles of Lean manufacture – embed 'material' waste thinking
- Work closer with your suppliers and customers/consumers
- Move organisational thinking towards a **Circular Economy**
- Adopt a lifecycle perspective
- Collect data that supports resource management and reporting

Act now – think circular



- There isn't a debate about whether or not to act, it's just when and how quickly
- Be a part of casting the options and influencing solutions, not just a follower
- Turn challenges into benefits that strengthen your business and reduce our impact on the environment
- Engage and influence your wider stakeholders to make the changes needed
- Extended Producer Responsibility - think more about service models and remanufacturing

Many companies have already started to 'think circular' and set aggressive targets – why not join them?

CASE STUDY

RR: Revert TotalCare



Reducing demand

Our Revert programme of closed loop metals recycling reduces our demand for virgin exotic materials

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Our world has finite resources

Our world has finite resources and demand for them is increasing. Recycling what we use is an essential part of a sustainable future. Our products rely on exotic materials that are critical to enabling them to perform in a safe and efficient manner, exotic metals that include rhenium, hafnium, nickel and titanium.

Our closed loop recycling programme

We use over 20,000 tonnes of high value metal alloys each year, equivalent to two and a half Eiffel Towers. That's why we work to reuse as much metal as we can through a closed-loop recycling programme we call Revert.

CASE STUDY RR: Revert TotalCare

Power by the hour

Our TotalCare® circular business model helps us to reduce waste and optimise resource efficiency, whilst enabling our customers to maximise the flying potential of their engines.



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A circular business model

Our long-term service agreements retain product stewardship. This provides a means to close the loop on material usage – reducing waste, increasing efficiency, and enhancing the robustness of our supply chain.